

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
DODE-00 NSC-05 /070 W
-----010556 021928Z /73

P R 021737Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5462
INFO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINC EUR VAHINGEN
USNMR SHAPE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02081

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NO, GW
SUBJECT: FRG PARTICIPATION IN NATO EXERCISES IN NORWAY

REFS: (A) STATE 27401 DTG 20011Z FEB 78
(B) OSLO 492 DTG 271715Z JAN 78 (NOTAL)

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SUMMARY: WHILE THE FRG DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE A FUSS
OVER NORWEGIAN RESTRICTIONS ON GERMAN PARTICIPATION IN
NATO EXERCISES, IT MIGHT BE WILLING TO ASSOCIATE
ITSELF WITH A COLLECTIVE APPROACH IN NATO. WE SUGGEST
THAT, BEFORE INVITING THE GERMANS TO JOIN IN ON SUCH
AN APPROACH, REFERENCES TO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE

FRG BE DROPPED FROM THE PROPOSED US TALKING POINTS.
END SUMMARY

1. WHILE DISAGREEING WITH THE NORWEGIAN POSITION ON GERMAN PARTICIPATION IN NATO EXERCISES IN NORWAY, THE FRG UNDERSTANDS THE CONCERNS WHICH LED TO THE RESTRICTIVE NORWEGIAN POLICY. ACCORDING TO GENERAL ALTENBURG, WITH WHOM THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT DURING A LUNCHEON CONVERSATION ON FEBRUARY 2, THE FRG EVEN IF IT DID NOT UNDERSTAND WOULD NOT PLAN TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF THE MATTER BILATERALLY WITH THE NORWEGIANS.

2. ALTENBURG CONFIRMED THAT, AT THE REQUEST OF DEFENSE UNDER SECRETARY HOLST, GERMAN PARTICIPATION IN THIS YEAR'S EXERCISES WOULD AGAIN BE LIMITED TO A HELICOPTER SQUADRON, A MEDICAL SQUADRON, AND A COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY. THE FRG HAD BEEN PREPARED TO SEND UNITS WHICH IT HAD THOUGHT WOULD BE MUCH MORE USEFUL -- PARATROOPERS AND ARMORED UNITS. RECONNAISSANCE UNITS FROM THE PARATROOPERS WERE IN FACT PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE BUT WERE PREVENTED FROM DOING SO AFTER HOLST SPECIFIED THE NORWEGIAN DESIRE THAT THEY NOT DO SO.

3. THE GERMAN ANALYSIS, ACCORDING TO ALTENBURG, IS THAT THE NORWEGIAN POLICY STEMMED FROM TWO CONSIDERATIONS: (A) NORWEGIAN DOMESTIC REASONS (WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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THE FRG CONSIDERS MISPLACED SINCE THE GERMAN PERSONNEL PARTICIPATING IN MANEUVERS WOULD BE TWO GENERATIONS REMOVED FROM THE TROOPS WHICH OCCUPIED NORWAY DURING THE WAR) AND (B) SOVIET PRESSURE. THE GERMANS PERCEIVE CONSIDERABLE NORWEGIAN NERVOUSNESS OVER THIS PRESSURE, WHICH IS MANIFESTED IN THE FORM OF THE HEAVY SOVIET STANCE IN THE SVALBARD AND BARENTS AREAS AND OF SOVIET SUBMARINE ACTIVITY OFF THE NORWEGIAN SHORE. ALTENBURG IMPLIED THAT THE KOSYGIN PERFORMANCE IN HELSINKI CLEARLY WAS A FACTOR IN THE NORWEGIAN DECISION.

4. ALTHOUGH ALTENBURG DID NOT SPECIFY WHEN THE NORWEGIAN DECISION NOT TO ACCEPT PARATROOP UNITS WAS COMMUNICATED TO THE FRG, WE GATHER FROM HIS REFERENCE TO THE KOSYGIN ENCOUNTER THAT IT WAS NOT BEFORE DECEMBER OR JANUARY.

5. COMMENT: ALTENBURG'S STATEMENT THAT THE FRG DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF THE MATTER WITH THE NORWEGIANS LEADS US TO CONCLUDE THAT THE GERMANS WOULD NOT WISH TO BE OUT IN FRONT ON ANY REPRESENTATION TO

THE NORWEGIANS AT NATO. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR MENTIONED THAT WE PLANNED TO CONSULT WITH OTHER ALLIES ON WHAT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN BUT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY REFER TO THE DEMARCHE PROPOSED IN REFTEL A. ALTENBURG'S COMMENTS WOULD NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF LOW-KEY FRG ASSOCIATION WITH THE PROPOSED APPROACH.

6. AS FOR THE CONTENT OF AN APPROACH IN NATO,

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 02081

WE BELIEVE THAT THE GERMANS WOULD PREFER THAT THE IDEA OF "DISCRIMINATION TOWARD THE FRG" (FIRST TALKING POINT IN PARA 5 OF REF A) BE SOFT-PEDALED. THEY ARE NO DOUBT AWARE THAT ANTI-GERMAN FEELINGS PERSIST IN NORWAY, BUT
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THEY WOULD DOUBTLESS PREFER THAT THEY REMAIN UNSPOKEN, PARTICULARLY IN ANY DEMARCHE WITH WHICH THEY ARE TO BE ASSOCIATED. THE NEED FOR TREATING THE SUBJECT WITH DELICACY PROBABLY ACCOUNTS FOR THE FACT THAT THE FRG, SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, DID NOT COMPLAIN WHEN THE NORWEGIANS ASKED A GERMAN NAVAL VESSEL ON A PORT VISIT TO BERGEN TO PUT TO SEA, ALLEGEDLY TO AVOID ANTI-GERMAN MANIFESTATIONS, DURING THE MAY 1976 NATIONAL DAY FESTIVITIES.

7. IT IS ALSO A SLIGHT OVERSTATEMENT TO SUGGEST IN THE FIRST TALKING POINT THAT THE NORWEGIAN DECISION WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE GERMAN PUBLIC. KNOWLEDGEABLE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE NO DOUBT CONCERNED, BUT WE HAVE SO FAR NOTICED NO PRESS PLAY ON THE MATTER AND DOUBT THAT THE GERMAN PUBLIC WOULD BE ALL THAT INTERESTED.

8. IN SHORT, IF WE ARE TO INVITE THE FRG TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH OUR REPRESENTATIONS, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO DELETE THE SECOND AND THIRD SENTENCES OF THE FIRST TALKING POINT, RESERVING THEM FOR ANY BILATERAL US FOLLOW-UP WITH THE NORWEGIANS.
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